

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Financing the CDCR Plan for Inmate Population, Rehabilitation, and Housing Management

Governor Schwarzenegger will ask the Legislature during the special session of 2006 to create prison capacity through facility construction and public/private contracts in an effort to provide additional rehabilitation opportunities. These measures will accommodate existing population projections and reduce the reliance on nontraditional beds such as gymnasiums, dayrooms and triple-bunks in dormitories.

This plan assumes that all nontraditional beds currently being utilized would be phased out as CDCR provides traditional capacity. Some 43,738 beds are called for in the plan by the 2012/13 fiscal year.

The Department of Finance has estimated the total cost of these plans to approach \$6 billion. The Legislature and media statewide was briefed on the financial estimates on August 1.

Based upon spring 2006 projections, CDCR will run out of existing capacity to house prisoners by June 2007. This calls into account the use of more than 18,500 nontraditional beds.

This historic event is forcing CDCR to offer different measures to provide additional capacity to house felons sentenced by county courts.

These measures include:

- contracting for male and female community correctional facilities;
- constructing/converting additional beds within existing prison facilities;
- constructing two new prisons;
- contracting for out-of-state facilities to house felons subject to deportation; and
- constructing reentry program facilities throughout the State.

The creation of new facilities and housing options will provide additional bed space to ease departmental overcrowding, an issue for which the special session was called to address.

As population levels have risen past the design capacity of all CDCR facilities, administrators have been forced to place inmate beds in areas such as dayrooms and gyms.

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When a facility exceeds design capacity and non-traditional beds are placed in inappropriate areas for beds such as gyms and dayrooms -- space is no longer available to offer training, education recreation and treatment services such as self-help groups.